

# Page Waste Repository Open House September 9, 2009

## FACT SHEET



### Bunker Hill Superfund Site, Northern Idaho



Idaho Department of Environmental Quality

Region 10

August 2009

Want to learn more about the upcoming expansion of the Page Repository? Join the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) September 9, at a Community Open House. It will take place at the **Kellogg High School cafeteria, 2 Jacobs Gulch Road, Kellogg ID 83837**. You can drop in any time between 3:30 and 8:00 p.m. Talk one-on-one with project managers. Get your questions answered. See displays. Learn what changes are coming at the repository. There will be no presentations.

#### Open House

*Date: Wednesday, September 9, 2009*

*Times: Drop in any time between 3:30 and 8:p.m.*

*Location: Kellogg High School cafeteria  
2 Jacobs Gulch Road, Kellogg, ID 83837*

The agencies want community members to have a chance to ask questions, share their thoughts, and be fully informed. Even though a formal public involvement process is not required for this work, we are sharing information because the expansion of the existing repository will fill wetlands and because required wetland mitigation will be met by buying into a wetlands trust outside the Coeur d'Alene River valley. We know that some residents have strong opinions about repositories, and if we can improve the way we expand the site we would like to know your ideas. We encourage you to attend.

#### Getting Ready to Grow

Plans for expanding the existing Page Repository have been in progress for several years. The repository, west of Smelterville, ID, has been operating for about 20 years and is reaching its design capacity—it's filling up. The expansion will add about 1.6 acres to the site's footprint, which covers about 20 acres. This work does not create a new repository; it just adds capacity to an existing one.

The Page repository is located on an old tailings pond. The repository was used at first to contain waste removed from Box residential yards. The Box yards cleanup is now complete. The expansion is needed so that local residents, businesses, governments and contractors will have a place to dispose of contaminated soils from excavation activities. This work is done under the Institutional Controls Program (ICP). Proper

disposal of contaminated soils is an important way to protect people's health.

The expansion will fill contaminated wetlands that formed in an old mill tailings area. Filling in wetlands is normally not what EPA and IDEQ would prefer to do. However, expanding the repository by 1.6 acres allows EPA, IDEQ, and the Upstream Mining Group (UMG) a few needed years to determine the size, location, and design of a long-term ICP repository for the Box, which very well might include filling more of the wetlands. UMG is a group of mining companies which entered into a legal agreement with EPA and the State of Idaho to perform certain cleanup work in the Box, including work at the Page repository.

Even though the wetlands are very contaminated, a Clean Water Act 404 analysis is needed. The agencies must do *mitigation*, re-creating any wetland values that are lost because of this work. To meet requirements, the agencies plan to use a "mitigation bank." This means the agencies purchase a wetlands "share" at a wetlands mitigation bank to offset the wetland impacts from the expansion. Although it is outside of the local watershed, use of the Valencia Wetlands Trust will keep the wetland values in northern Idaho. Our preference would be to do mitigation within the site. There are opportunities within the Basin that would enhance the local ecosystem. Unfortunately, none of these opportunities allowed us to meet the requirement for mitigation to happen before or concurrent with the impacts to the wetlands. The ICP needs more repository space now. We can't wait until a good candidate mitigation site is developed within the Basin. EPA and DEQ are working to identify a site within the Basin for future wetlands mitigation.

#### About the Institutional Controls Program

*The Institutional Controls Program, or ICP, is a locally enforced set of rules and regulations to control contamination. It is run by the Panhandle Health District (PHD). The ICP was set up to make sure clean soil and other protective barriers stay in place over contaminated soil, and that contaminated materials are managed safely. This will protect people's health and the environment. For more information, call PHD at 208-783-0707, or visit [www.phd1.idaho.gov/institutional/institutionalindex.cfm](http://www.phd1.idaho.gov/institutional/institutionalindex.cfm)*



U. S. Environmental Protection Agency  
1200 Sixth Avenue, Suite 900, ETPA-081  
Seattle, Washington 98101-3140

***Inside: Come to an Open House to learn  
about work at the Page Repository  
September 9, 2009***

*Continued from Page 1*

Residents will not notice any changes in traffic patterns. In fact, in recent years as the Box yards cleanup was completed, traffic to the repository has been reduced to local Box property owners and contractors who dispose of ICP waste.

***Repositories make good sense. At the Bunker Hill Superfund site, contamination can be found almost anywhere on the valley floor and in gulches where mining occurred and on the hillsides in the Box from smelter emissions. The cleanup is scraping up the contamination and piling it up into these places called repositories. Here, the contaminants are secured and managed in place. Repositories reduce the footprint of surface contamination. They protect people and wildlife.***

Surveying and some erosion control work is already under way. On-site work starts in earnest in mid-September. UMG will complete most of the field work. DEQ and EPA are responsible for oversight.

Documents for this project are on the DEQ website noted below. There you will find:

- Draft Technical Memorandum Page Repository Wedge Design 2009
- Draft Clean Water Act Section 404 Analysis – Wedge Expansion of West Page Repository
- Requirements for Disposal of Petroleum Contaminated ICP Wastes in the Page Repository
- Coarse and Durable Sampling and Analysis Plan
- Conceptual Plans for Wetlands Mitigation

## For More Information

### CONTACTS

Bruce Schuld, DEQ Project Manager, Boise, ID  
208-373-0554, [bruce.schuld@deq.idaho.gov](mailto:bruce.schuld@deq.idaho.gov)  
Anne McCauley, EPA Project Manager, Seattle, WA  
206-553-4689, 800-424-4372,  
[mccauley.anne@epa.gov](mailto:mccauley.anne@epa.gov)

### DOCUMENTS

Select project documents can be viewed at

Kellogg Public Library	EPA Records Center
16 West Market Avenue	1200 Sixth Avenue
Kellogg, ID 83827	Seattle, WA 98101
208-786-7231	206-553-4494

### WEBSITES

Page Repository:

[www.deq.idaho.gov/waste/prog\\_issues/mining/page\\_repository.cfm](http://www.deq.idaho.gov/waste/prog_issues/mining/page_repository.cfm)

EPA Cleanup:

<http://yosemite.epa.gov/r10/cleanup.nsf/sites/cda>



*Alternative formats are available. For reasonable accommodation, please call Andrea Lindsay at 206-553-1896. TTY users, please call the Federal Relay Service at 800-877-8339.*